

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 IO-13 COME-00 LAB-04 OMB-01 STR-04
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-----050528Z 130930 /14

R 041522Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4697
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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E O 11652: NA
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SUBJ: POLISH-GDR RELATIONS

REF: BERLIN 5504

1. DURING DISCUSSION MAY 3 WITH CHARGE, POLISH EMBASSY DCM KUCZA PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON FORTHCOMING GIEREK VISIT TO GDR. THE POLISH VISIT WILL BE A PARTY-STATE (PANSTWOWY) VISIT, AS DISTINCT FROM A PARTY-GOVERNMENT VISIT, SIMILAR TO GIEREK'S LAST VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION. GIEREK AND JARUISIEWICZ WILL HEAD THE POLISH SIDE, WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION ALLEGEDLY NOT YET FIRM. THE VISIT WILL
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TAKE PLACE THE "LAST DAYS OF MAY" AND WILL BE FOR ONLY TWO DAYS. ANOTHER POLISH EMBASSY SOURCE SAID MAY 3 VISIT WILL START MAY 3.

2. A NEW POLISH-GDR STATE TREATY WILL BE SIGNED TO REFLECT THE "QUALITATIVE" CHANGES IN POLISH-GDR RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO KUCZA, THESE CHANGES WILL REFLECT

THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WHICH HAVE DEVELOPED SINCE THE TREATY IN 1967; FOR THE GDR THE QUALITATIVE CHANGE ALSO MEANS THE DEGREE OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION IT HAS ACHIEVED SINCE THEN. THERE WILL BE A PARAGRAPH EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE TO BOTH SIDES OF THE POLISH-GDR BORDER, BUT KUCZA MADE NO MENTION OF POSSIBLE PARAGRAPH DEVOTED TO WEST BERLIN.

3. THE EMPHASIS OF THE VISIT WILL BE ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WITH BOTH SIDES APPARENTLY SEEKING TO SET OUT GENERAL PLANS FOR BILATERAL COOPERATION THROUGH 1990 AND PERHAPS UNTIL THE YEAR 2000. IN THIS CONNECTION, KUCZA NOTED AN 11 PCT INCREASE IN BILATERAL TRADE IN 1977, NOTING THAT THE CURRENT VOLUME OF TRADE AMOUNTS TO 1.6 BILLION VALUTA RUBLES. HE SAID PRODUCTION SPECIALIZATION WOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED, ESPECIALLY IN MACHINE TOOLS, CHEMICALS AND ELECTRONICS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE POLES EXPECTED AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF POLISH WORKERS TAKING PART IN MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, COAL MINING, AND RESTORATION WORK ON OLD TOWNS IN THE GDR. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE WOULD BE A DROP IN THE NUMBER OF POLISH FACTORY WORKERS ONCE THEIR PRESENT CONTRACTS EXPIRE, IN PART BECAUSE THE POLES DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT WORKERS FOR THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY.

4. KUCZA SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PARTICULAR EMPHASIS DURING THE VISIT ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. HE DOUBTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE WOULD BE MUCH DISCUSSION OF CSCE MATTERS, IN PART, HE ASSERTED, BECAUSE BELGRADE IS TO BE MORE ORGANIZATIONAL RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE. HE MADE NO EFFORT TO CONFIRM OR DENY THAT A MEETING OF WARSAW PACT FIRST SECRETARIES WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JUNE IN WARSAW OR MOSCOW ON CSCE (WARSAW 3418). ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT BOTH THE POLES AND THE GDR SAW EYE TO EYE ON THEIR ASSESSMENT OF WEST GERMANY, HE IMPLIED THIS SUBJECT WOULD NOT FIGURE MUCH IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EAST GERMANS. THIS MAY BE DUE IN PART TO GENSCHER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WARSAW, WHICH KUCZA ASSERTED HAD NOT YET BEEN NAILED DOWN. WHILE HE SAID THERE WERE "FORCES" IN THE FRG WHICH WERE AGAINST DETENTE AND WHICH WERE TRYING TO USE CSCE AS A WAY OF INDICTING EASTERN EUROPE, HE SAID THE POLISH PRESS HAD BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO BE CRITICAL OF SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH THE GIEREK-JARUSIEWICZ VISIT, KUCZA NOTED THERE WOULD BE A MASS GDR-POLISH YOUTH

MEETING IN FRANKFURT ON THE ODER MAY 28-30. 80,000
GDR YOUTH AND 20,000 POLES ARE EXPECTED FOR THE EVENT,
WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS APPARENTLY MAKING A MAJOR EFFECT
TO PUT ON A CONVINCING SHOW OF FRIENDSHIP.

6. ON THE MATTER OF THE NEW EXCHANGE RATE FOR NON-
COMMERCIAL PAYMENTS (BERLIN 5901), JUCZA SOUGHT TO
PLAY DOWN ITS IMPORTANCE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE GDR HAD
BEEN TRYING FOR TWO YEARS TO ARRANGE A NEW RATE WITH
THE POLES ALLEGEDLY PUTTING THEM OFF BY ARGUING IT
WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT TO SEE HOW FAR POLISH PRICES
WOULD RISE. HE CLAIMED THAT THE NEW RATE WOULD NOT HAVE
A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE AMOUNT OF TRAVEL BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES.POLANSKY

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